

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3383

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

EMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3316

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY'S MIDEAST MISSION

1. SUMMARY. EFFORTS OF LEBANESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO REINFORMCE NATIONAL UNITY FOLLOWING EXTENDED PERIOD OF TENSION CAPTURE BANNER HEADLINES OF MOST BEIRUT PAPERS MARCH 16. SECRETARY'S MISSION RECEIVES FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT UNDER VARIETY OF HEADLINES, BUT EDITORIAL COMMENT IS LIMITED. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" EMPHASIZES ROLE OF SECRETARY AND OF POSITIVE ARAB PRESSURE IN ACHIEVING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IN BITTER ATTACK ON EGYPT, PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA" FOCUSES ON REPORTS IT HAS RECEIVED CONCERNING CONDITIONS U.S. IS SAID TO BE IMPOSING ON THAT COUNTRY IN EXCHANGE FOR FURTHER SINAI WITHDRAWAL. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" BELIEVES SECRETARY'S GROWING INTEREST IN SYRIA DERIVES FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S NEED FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT BEFORE 1976 CAMPAIGN. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" ASKS ITSELF WHETHER SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE WHAT IT SEES AS ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE.

END SUMMARY.

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2. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" HEADLINES: "KISSINGER FOLLOWING MEETING WITH ASAD: I SHALL RETURN TO SYRIA. AMERICAN SECRETARY AWAITING ISRAEL'S REPLY TO EGYPTIAN IDEAS." LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR": "DAMASCUS TO KISSINGER: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL MUST NOT BE LESS THAN 60 KILOMETERS." PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT": "ASAD INSISTS ON WITHDRAWAL IN DEPTH FROM GOLAN. EGYPT: SADAT COMMITTED TO WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS." LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" IS ONLY PAPER TO DEVOTE BANNER TO MISSION: "EGYPT REJECTS END TO STATE OF BELLIGERENCY AND STIPULATES DISENGAGEMENT ON ALL FRONTS AND PALESTINIAN ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE."

3. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "DR. KISSINGER'S PROBLEM IS BOTH SIMPLE AND COMPLICATED BECAUSE HE IS AMERICA'S SECSTATE. THOSE WHO SAY HE WILL SUCCEED BELIEVE THAT WHEN AMERICA PRESSURES ISREAL OBEYS. THOSE WHO SAY HE WILL FAIL BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN WILL NEVER PRESSURE. TRUTH IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES. AMERICAN PRESSURE IS FUNDAMENTAL, AND DR. KISSINGER WOULD BE ALMOST NOTHING WITHOUT IT. BUT AMERICAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL MAY HAVE LIMITS THAT DR. KISSINGER CANNOT EXCEED. THUS ARISES INTERPLAY OF AMERICA'S POWER AND DR. KISSINGER'S STKIL. BOTH TOGETHER MAY ACHIEVE MIRACLE, WHICH IS NEITHER IMPOSSIBLE NOR READY FOR THE ASKING. ALL THIS BEING SO, IT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS IN INTEREST OF ARABS ON ALL FRONTS TO PLAY GAME OF MUTUAL PRESSURES, INCLUDING ARAB PRESSURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEED OF U.S. AND SPECIFICALLY ITS SECSTATE FOR SUCCESS. MEDIATOR HAS HIMSELF BECOME A PARTY WHO CAN GAIN OR LOSE FROM SUCCESS OR FAILURE, SO HE CAN BE PRESSURED BY ARAB INTRANSIGENCE, NOT TO EXTENT OF CAUSING HIM TO FAIL, BUT TO EXTENT OF SUCCEEDING WITH HIM. II IS IN INTEREST OF ARABS TO REMAIN POSITIVE UNTIL END, SO THAT IF SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED THEY WILL REAP ITS FRUITS AND IF FAILURE RESULTS RESPONSIBILITY WILL FALL ON ISRAEL BY AMERICAN MEDIATOR'S ADMISSION."

4. COLUMNIST FUAD KAHIL WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA": "SOVIET UNION'S POSITION ON MIDEAST PROBLEM IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE. UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS INDISPUTABLE.....BUT EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP HAS TRIED TO DISTROT THIS POSITION EVER SINCE OCTOBER WAR BY ALLEGING THAT SOVIET UNION REFUSED TO MAKE UP EGYPT'S WEAPONS LOSSES IN THAT WAR.....BUT WHEN 'DEAR HENRY' BEGAN TO CARRY OUT HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, IT BECAME CLEAR...THAT MOVEMENT AWAY FROM SOVIET UNION WAS PART OF 'PLAN' -- INDEED THE BASIC 'STEP' THAT KISSINGER DESIRED. THINGS HAVE BECOME EVEN CLEARER...NOW THAT SOME

CONDITIONS KISSINGER HAS IMPOSED ON EGYPT IN EXCHANGE FOR NEW  
PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL...HAVE LEADED.....AMONG THESE  
CONDITIONS IS CESSATION OF ARMAMENT FROM SIVIET UNION....  
EGYPT IS RUNNING BEHIND KISSINGER'S 'STEPS' WILL BLESSING OF  
ARAB REACTIONARIES....NEW EGYPTIAN POLICY WILL HAVE TO BEAR  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY WEAKENING OF EGYPT'S MILITARY POWER.....  
ZIONISM AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM...WILL FIND IT EASIER TO  
ACHIEVE EXPANSIONIST ISRAELI AMBITIONS AND LIQUIDATE  
PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE'S CAUSE."

5. SULAYMAN AL-FIRIZLI, CHIEF EDITOR OF PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT",  
WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "ROCKEFELLER HAS ASKED  
KISSINGER NOT TO RETURN IN FAILURE FROM MIDEAST NO MATTER WHAT  
COST MAY BE, PROVIDED 'FINAL PEACE' IN AREA IS ACHIEVED BEFORE  
ELECTION. KISSINGER IS THEREFORE PONDERING SYRIAN-ISRAELI  
ISSUE AND GIVING IT MORE ATTENTION THAT WOULD APPEAR."

6. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" WRITES: "ISRAELI POSITION REMAINS  
WHAT IT HAS BEEN....HOWEVER, IT IS NOW TIME -- PERHAPS  
TODAY -- TO FIND OUT WHETHER ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE  
ITS AGGRESSIVE AND INTRANSIGENT POSITION AND WHETHER DR.  
KISSINGER'S TALKS WILL LEAD EVEN TO FIRST STEP."  
GODLEY

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** USIA STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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